

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00410 121346Z

45

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 NSCE-00 ACDA-05 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 115830

O R 121305Z APR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1882

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ, IR, ICRC

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

REF: BAGHDAD 0384; STATE 74981

1. SUMMARY: GOI PROVIDED EXTENSIVE TOUR OF KURDISTAN
FOR 15 MILITARY ATTACHES, INCLUDING BRITISH AND RUSSIAN.

UK LTCOL SANDERS GAVE ME FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF APRIL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00410 121346Z

5-10 TOUR WHICH INDICATES ARMY IN COMPLETE CONTROL

AND REPORTS OF STARVATION, DEVASTATION, AND REPRISALS AGAINST KURDS ARE FALSE. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST DAY GROUP VISITED MOSUL, THEN BY HELICOPTER (MI-8) TO AQRA, BARZAN AND BACK TO MOSUL. SECOND DAY TO ZAWITA, SERSANG, BERSANG, AMADIA, KANI MASI ON TURKISH BORDER, DIHOK AND BACK TO MOSUL ALL BY HELICOPTER. THIRD DAY GROUP DROVE TO ERBIL THEN TOOK HELICOPTERS TO SALAHEDINA, SHAKLAWA AND BACK TO

ERBIL. FOURTH DAY TO NAWAKIN MOUNTAIN, WHICH CONTROLS EASTERN END OF GALI ALI BEG, OVERFLEW ROWANDUZ TO SUZAK AND UP TO FISHBACK MOUNTAIN, A KEY STRATEGIC HEIGHT CAPTURED MARCH 7, THEN TO GALLALA, HAJ UMRAN, AND BACK TO ERBIL. FIFTH DAY DROVE TO KIRKUK, THEN FLEW TO RANYA, QALAT DIZAH AND BACK TO KIRKUK. LAST DAY FLEW TO SULAMANIYAH, SAYID SIDDIK (ALSO TAKEN MARCH 7), MANITA AND PANJWIN ON THE IRANIAN BORDER, KIRKUK AND BACK TO BAGHDAD.

3. SANDERS SAID THEY TOURED MOST PLACES, INCLUDING BARZAN'S FORMER HDQS, WERE SHOWN ARMS CACHES, PERMITTED TO US HIGH POWER BINOCULARS, AND HAD FREE ACCESS TO KURDS AND CHRISTIANS. IN ADDITION TO MILITARY BRIEFINGS, SANDERS HAD SEVERAL EXTENSIVE PRIVATE TALKS WITH IRAQI SANDHURST FRIENDS.

4. SANDERS MOST IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS WERE:
(A) ARMY COMPLETELY DOMINATES THE ENTIRE AREA WITH WELL OVER 200,000 TROOPS, REGULARS AND IRREGULARS. THERE IS NO RESISTANCE BY KURDS; (B) THERE IS EXPLICIT GOI POLICY NOT RPT NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY FORM OF REPRISALS AGAINST KURDS; (C) THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF STARVATION, DETENTION CAMPS, OR MASSIVE DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS OR CROPS. ALTHOUGH A FEW VILLAGES WERE BADLY DESTROYED, DAMAGE IN MOST WAS LESS THAN 30 PERCENT. MANY OTHERS WERE RELATIVELY UNTOUCHED. WEATHER IS GOOD, PASSES ARE ALL OPEN AND ONLY SNOW REMAINS ON MOUNTAIN PEAKS; (D) GOI IS SERIOUS ABOUT PROVIDING WHATEVER RELIEF MAY BE NECESSARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00410 121346Z

ATTACHES TALKED WITH GOVERNMENT MEDICAL TEAMS AND FOOD SUPPLY TEAMS; (E) ARMY IS PROUD OF ITS VICTORY AND HAS ADOPTED ATTITUDE OF "FORGIVE AND FORGET"; (F) TRIPARTITE IRAQI-IRANIAN-ALGERIAN MONITORING SYSTEM IS WORKING WELL. ATTACHES TALKED WITH TRIPARTITE TEAMS AT IRANIAN BORDER CROSSING POINTS AND AT ROWANDUZ, HAJ UMRAN, AND QALAT DIZA. THEY SAID THEIR PRINCIPAL MISSION WAS TO ASSURE THAT RETURNING REFUGEES

ARE WELL TREATED AND TRANSPORTED BACK TO THEIR VILLAGES. MANY VILLAGES ARE FULLY OCCUPIED; ONLY A FEW WERE COMPLETELY DESERTED. HE ESTIMATES THAT 10 PERCENT OF KURDISH POPULATION, REPRESENTING PESH MERGA FIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES (I.E. 150,000-175,000) HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY. AUTHORITIES DID NOT CLAIM LARGE NUMBERS WERE YET RETURNING FROM IRAN. ONE SOURCE SAID 1,500 HAD RETURNED, BUT WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS ADMITTED ONLY 20 FAMILIES HAD COME BACK. TRANSPORT BEING PROVIDED TO TAKE THEM BACK TO THEIR VILLAGES; (G) DESPITE GOI EFFORTS, KURDS ARE APPREHENSIVE AND APPEAR BAFFLED BY ABSENCE OF REPRISALS; (H) VICTORY IS SO COMPLETE AND CAME SO SUDDENLY THAT ARMY DOES NOT HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF HOW TO ADMINISTER AREA. ARMY EXPECTED TO STAY AT NEAR FULL FORCE FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS AND THEN BEGIN WITHDRAWAL IF ALL IS WELL. SOME OFFICER TALKED OF SETTLING KURDS IN LARGE-SIZED VILLAGES BOTH FOR PURPOSES OF BETTER CONTROL AND BECAUSE IT WOULD BE MORE ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES SUCH AS ELECTRICITY. LARGE SUMS OF MONEY ARE BEING SPENT TO IMPROVE ROADS AND OTHER SERVICES.

5. WITH REGARD TO MARCH 7-13 OFFENSIVE, ARMY OFFICERS WERE UNIFORMLY EXPLICIT THAT CEASEFIRE HAD NOT GONE INTO EFFECT UNTIL MARCH 13 AT REQUEST OF IRAN. PROVISION FOR CEASEFIRE NOT INCLUDED IN MARCH 6 ACCORD. ARMY SUCCEEDED IN TAKING KEY HIGH GROUND ALL ALONG THE FRONT DURING THIS PERIOD AND CLAIMED TO HAVE KILLED OR CAPTURED 500 PESH MERGA IN AREA EAST OF SULAMANIYAH ALONE. COMBINATION OF THIS CAMPAIGN AND WITHDRAWAL OF IRANIAN SUPPORT HAD BROKEN BACK OF KURDISH MOVEMENT.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST EXTENSIVE EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BAGHDA 00410 121346Z

OF SITUATION IN NORTH FROM RELIABLE TRAINED OBSERVER. IT FITS WITH MORE LIMITED OBSERVATION BY AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS FROM AP, NEW YORK TIMES AND BALTIMORE SUN. (REFTEL) CENTURIES OLD ANTI-PATHY BETWEEN KURDS AND ARABS IS NOT GOING TO DISAPPEAR AND THERE ARE NO DOUBT GOING TO BE INCIDENTS AND PROBLEMS IN FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IF MILITARY OCCUPATION CONTINUES FOR LONG PERIOD. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE OR NOT BASIS IN FACT FOR SPECTACULAR WESTERN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF GENOCIDE, STARVATION, AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS WHICH SEEMS TO ORIGINATE FROM KURDISH SOURCES IN NEW YORK AND LONDON WHO HAVEN'T BEEN TO KURDISTAN FOR MONTHS.
LOWRIE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KURDS, MILITARY ATTACHES, MILITARY VISITS, ALLEGATIONS, REPRISALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BAGHDA00410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750128-0479
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750455/aaaabywr.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BAGHDAD 0384, 75 STATE 74981
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN IRAQI KURDISTAN
TAGS: PINT, IZ, IR, ICRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006